



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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January 10, 2007

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Karen VanDusen, SBOH Member

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION;
"PHARMACEUTICALS FROM HOUSEHOLDS: A RETURN MECHANISM"**

Background and Summary

The Board has a policy under which it may consider a request for a letter of support for a project or program that is consistent with Board priorities or that advances public health. The policy specifies that a letter of support may be provided to a unit of state, local, or tribal government or a not-for-profit organization with a mission related to public health. The request may be approved or denied by the Board's Chair or, at his or her discretion, submitted to the entire Board for decision.

A team of agencies, including the Interagency Resource for Achieving Cooperation; Department of Ecology; Department of Social and Health Services; Washington State Board of Pharmacy; and Public Health—Seattle & King County have formed a coalition with other public and private organizations to develop a pilot project to assist with removing unused pharmaceuticals from households and residential care facilities. This coalition is known as the "Pharmaceuticals from Households: A Return Mechanism" (PH:ARM) team. Representatives to the coalition from the departments of Ecology and Social and Health Services are requesting a letter of support for the PH:ARM pilot project from the State Board of Health to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). This letter is being requested to support an application for a waiver from DEA requirements that only law enforcement personnel may accept returned controlled substances from consumers. The waiver would allow expansion of the PH:ARM pilot project to all types of legal pharmaceuticals, including controlled substances.

Emma Johnson, Department of Ecology, has been invited to briefly describe the PH:ARM program and answer questions about this request. Please refer to materials behind Tab 13 in your packets.

Recommended Board Action

Depending on testimony offered and the Board's own discussions, the Board may choose to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

Motion: The Board authorizes its Executive Director to prepare a letter for the Chair's signature that would support a limited Drug Enforcement Administration waiver to allow expansion of the "Pharmaceuticals from Households: a Return Mechanism" (PH:ARM).